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We claim:

1 1. A drawing tablet comprising:
2 a surface; and
3 an imaging sensor designed to capture an image on the surface, the imaging sensor
4 designed to capture the image even if the image is occluded.

1 2. A drawing tablet according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the surface is translucent; and
3 the imaging sensor is mounted below the surface.

1 3. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 transmission means designed to transmit the image captured by the imaging sensor to a
3 computer.

1 4. A drawing tablet according to claim 3, wherein the transmission means
2 includes a cable coupled to the drawing tablet and to the computer.

1 5. A drawing tablet according to claim 3, wherein the transmission means a
2 wireless transmitter designed to wirelessly transmit the image to the a wireless receiver
3 coupled to the computer.

1 6. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 software in a computer designed to adjust the image to compensate for distortion by the
3 imaging sensor.

1 7. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 software in a computer designed to adjust the image to compensate for a reversed image
3 captured by the imaging sensor.

1 8. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 an erasable pen designed to draw on the surface.

1 9. A drawing tablet according to claim 8, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 an eraser for erasing marks produced by the erasable pen.

1 10. A drawing tablet according to claim 8, wherein the image is hand-drawn with
2 the erasable pen.

1 11. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, wherein the imaging sensor is designed
2 to capture images of physical objects placed on the surface.

1 12. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, wherein the imaging sensor is designed
2 to capture colors in the image on the surface.

1 13. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 software in a computer designed to animate at least a portion of the image.

1 14. A drawing tablet according to claim 13, wherein the software is designed to
2 animate the portion of the image based on a movement of a physical object placed on the
3 surface.

1 15. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 light projecting means.

1 16. A drawing tablet according to claim 15, wherein the light projecting means
2 includes:

3 a light emitting source; and
4 mirrors designed to reflect the light; and
5 galvanometers designed to move the mirrors to steer light emitting from the light
6 emitting source onto the surface.

1 17. A drawing tablet according to claim 16, wherein the light emitting source is
2 constructed and arranged to vary its luminance.

1 18. A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising
2 an additional light source to increase contrast of the image on the surface as captured by the
3 imaging sensor.

1 19. A method for using a drawing tablet, the method comprising:
2 capturing an image from the surface of the drawing tablet so that no objects on the
3 surface of the drawing tablet are occluded;
4 transmitting the captured image to a computer; and
5 processing the captured image on the computer for display on a monitor.

1 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein capturing an image includes
2 capturing the image from beneath the surface of the drawing tablet, the drawing tablet
3 including a translucent surface.

1 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein transmitting the captured image
2 includes wirelessly transmitting the captured image to a computer.

1 22. A method according to claim 20, wherein processing the captured image
2 includes animating at least a portion of the captured image.

1 23. A method according to claim 22, wherein animating at least a portion of the
2 captured image includes animating the portion of the captured image based on the contents of
3 the captured image.

1 24. A method according to claim 23, wherein animating the portion of the
2 captured image includes animating the portion of the captured image based on a change in the
3 contents of the captured image.

1 25. A method according to claim 20, the method further comprising repeating at
2 intervals the steps of capturing, transmitting, and processing.

1 26. A method according to claim 25, the method further comprising updating the
2 image on the surface of the drawing tablet.

1 27. ~~A method according to claim 20, the method further comprising projecting a~~
2 light onto the drawing tablet.

1 28. A method according to claim 27, the method further comprising;
2 capturing a change in the captured image; and
3 measuring how accurately the change follows the projected light.

1 29. An article comprising:
2 a storage medium, said storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, when
3 executed by a computing device, result in:
4 receiving an image captured from a surface of a drawing tablet, the image captured in
5 a manner such that no portion of the surface of the drawing tablet is occluded;
6 modifying the received image; and
7 displaying the modified image.

1 30. An article according to claim 29, wherein receiving an image includes
2 receiving the image captured by an imaging sensor from the surface of the drawing tablet.

1 31. An article according to claim 29, wherein receiving an image includes
2 receiving an image captured from beneath the surface of the drawing tablet, the surface of the
3 drawing tablet being translucent.

1 32. An article according to claim 29, wherein modifying the received image
2 includes modifying the received image based on the contents of the image.

1 33. An article according to claim 29, wherein modifying the received image
2 includes modifying the image based on a change from a prior image.

1 34. An article according to claim 33, wherein modifying the image based on a
2 change from a prior image includes animating the image based on the change.